

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

FOOD HABITS OF CROTAPHYTUS WISLIZENII BAIRD
AND GIRARD.

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The results of an examination of stomach contents of the leopard lizard, *Crotaphytus wislizenii*, are presented in the accompanying table. These lizards were collected during the last days of May and the first half of June in 1920 and 1921. They were taken in various localities in Utah from the southern end of Great Salt Lake to St. George in the extreme Southwest, thus representing nearly the entire range of the lizards in the State.

A study of the table shows that this lizard is entirely insectivorous and carnivorous. Five of the eighteen had eaten other lizards—one a full-grown *Cnemidophorus tessellatus*! All of the others had taken insects. Of these, bees and wasps, lepidoptera, largely larvae, beetles, flies and grasshoppers were most frequently represented. The grains of sand found in five specimens were likely ingested accidentally in catching insects. It is significant that not a single specimen contained vegetable remains.

These results are in accord with the findings of Ruthven in New Mexico and Arizona¹ where he found insects and lizards, and in Nevada² where he found only insects. They agree also with Taylor's report³ of finding a *Sceloporus graciosus* and seeing one chasing a cicada; with Richardson⁴ who writes that "its food consists to some extent of other lizards, for a whole *Cnemidophorus tigris*, the tail of another, and a *Uta stansburiana* were found in the stomachs examined"; with Camp⁵ who found a full-grown gridiron-tailed lizard; with Stejneger⁶ in finding a full-grown *Uta stansburiana* in one specimen and a mature *Phrynosoma platyrhinos* and

¹Am. Mus. Nat. History, Vol. 23, Art. 23, pp. 517-518.

²Occ. Papers, Mus. of Zoology, U. of Mich., No. 8, p. 17.

³U. of Calif. Pub. in Zoology, Vol. 7, pp. 347-348.

⁴U. S. Nat. Mus. Proc., Vol. 48, p. 408.

⁵U. of Calif. Pub. in Zoology, Vol. 12, No. 17, p. 522.

⁶N. A. Fauna, No. 7, p. 167.

remnants of *C. wislizenii* in another; and with Franklin¹ who reports that in the Painted Desert of Arizona *C. wislizenii* feeds largely upon cicadas. On one occasion he saw a specimen jump up over two feet and catch a cicada which was singing in a low greasewood bush. Merriam's statement² that the "leopard lizard is chiefly a vegetarian" is at variance with these results.

¹Copeia, Vol. 1, No. 5.

²N. A. Fauna, No. 7, p. 168.

No.	Sex	Lizards	Hymenoptera	Coleoptera	Lepidoptera	Orthoptera	Diptera	Miscellaneous Insects	Unid. Animal Remains	Spiders	Sand	Notes
500	♀	1 mature <i>Uta stansburiana</i>										
501	♂	1 mature <i>Uta stansburiana</i>										
502	♂				1 larva	2 (unid.)	2 larva	2 (unid.)	x			
503	♀	1 mature <i>S. graciosus</i>	6 (unid.)									
504	♂		1 Sphecidae		2 larvae		2 (unid.)		x			
505	♂	1 mature <i>Uta stansburiana</i>				2 large Acrididae					1 grain	
506	♂					2 Acrididae					1 grain	
507	♂											
508	♀		4 bees (Apidae)	2 (unid.)	2 adults							
509	♀		3 (unid.)	1 Cerambycidae	2 butterflies						1 grain	
510	♂		2 Andrenidae	1 larva	2 larvae	1 Acrididae	1 Syrphidae	1 Capsidae	x	1	1 grain	
511	♂		2 (unid.)		2 larvae		1 (unid.)		x			
512	♀		2 (unid.)				1 (unid.)	1 Cercopidae	x	1		Juvenile
513	♀						1 (unid.)	1 larva (unid.)	x			
514	♂									2		
515	♂		2 Eumenidae	1 Chrysomelid larva	1 larva	2 Acrididae	1 (unid.)			2	1 grain	
			1 Cynipidae				1 cicada					
			2 small Ichneumonidae	2 Coccinellidae								
516	♀		4 (unid.)	2 (unid.)								
517	♀	1 mature <i>Cnemidophorus tessellatus</i>							x			Juvenile